

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT:

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EDITORIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Inaugural Meeting of the 34th Session will be held at the London School of Economics, on October 17th, at 6.30 p.m. Mr. Humbert Wolfe will deliver an address on "Verse and the General Reader," and the chair will be taken by Mr. George Sampson, the distinguished literary critic and educationist.

Although the Council has always endeavoured to secure inaugural addresses from noted authors, this is the first occasion upon which both Chairman and Speaker will be literary men of such eminence, and the Council is confident that even last year's record attendance will be eclipsed. All members are urged to attend this notable meeting and to make it widely known amongst their colleagues and friends.

The November Meeting will be held at Islington Central Library, Holloway Road, on November 14th, at 7.30 p.m., when Miss Phyllis Appleby, Richmond Public Library, will read a paper on "Parody," and the chair will be taken by Mr. W. J. Harris, F.L.A., Chief Librarian of Islington. Full notice will appear in the next issue.

Arrangements for the Session are well advanced and include visits to the re-organised Central Libraries of Lambeth and Bermondsey, the new Ashburton Library at Croydon, to

Hackney, Wimbledon, and Bristol, a joint meeting with the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association, and many afternoon programmes of great interest. We hope to publish a full sessional programme in the next issue, and meanwhile will members please note that all monthly meetings throughout the session will be held on the **Second Wednesday** of the month.

The Next Meeting of the Council will be held at the National Library for the Blind on Wednesday, October 17th, at 7 p.m.

Obituary.—We regret to learn that Mr. Herbert Jones, late Librarian of Kensington Public Libraries, died recently. He was a very well-known figure in London, and had been retired for some years past.

Correspondence Classes (A.A.L.). Arrangements are well in hand for the conducting of a full correspondence course for the May, 1929, L.A. Examinations. The full course will be run on the same conditions as last session's. Students must be members of the A.A.L., and must already be possessed of the educational qualifications demanded by the Library Association. The fee for each section is 12/6, and applications, together with the fees, must reach the Divisional Secretaries in the case of Divisional members, or in the case of London or isolated members, Miss E. M. Exley, St. Marylebone Public Library, Gloucester Place, London, W.1, by October 12th at the latest.

Dates of Classes.

Oct. 29th to Nov. 12th.	Feb. 4th to Feb. 18th.
Nov. 12th to Nov. 26th.	Feb. 18th to March 4th.
Nov. 26th to Dec. 10th.	March 4th to March 18th.
Dec. 10th to Jan. 7th.	March 18th to April 1st.
Jan. 7th to Jan. 21st.	April 1st to April 15th.
Jan. 21st to Feb. 4th.	April 15th to April 29th.

A New Library. The Ministry of Health has sanctioned a loan of £16,000 for the erection of a new Branch Library at Firth Park, Sheffield. This sum provides for building and furniture only, the site being free and the stock financed separately.

The Branch is planned on modern lines, with low book-cases, wide gangways (varying from 8 to 20 feet) and special display fittings (movable and fixed) in the Lending Library. There is a separate Children's Library to seat 50, and a Study Room giving access to the Lending Library stock.

The Lambeth Central Lending Library, Brixton, is being converted to the Open-access system and will re-open to the public in October. Extensive structural alterations have been made and the whole of the ground floor and basement re-arranged.

An adult library with radiating book stacks is provided, which will shelve about 30,000 volumes; and a Juvenile Library with a capacity of 4,500.

Book stocks have also been overhauled and large additions made.

It is proposed to convert four of the Branches, which are still worked on the closed system, during the next two years.

An Exhibition of Prints, Water Colours, Books, etc., relating to the Borough of Lambeth will be held at the Town Hall, Brixton Hill, S.W., from Monday, 15th October to Saturday, 3rd November, 1928, inclusive, hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 7 to 9.30 p.m.

The Exhibition will consist of a collection of prints kindly lent by the London County Council, augmented by the collection from the Lambeth Libraries; also a selection of books on Lambeth and London from the Lambeth Central Reference Library.

Poems from a Private Anthology is a feature which this month is of particular interest. It is the first poem in the series which has been by a living writer, and we are fortunate in having been able to obtain Mr. Young's permission to re-print his "Hymn," which is taken, by the way, from a play entitled "The Adversary," published some years ago, and now, we believe, out of print and scarce. We hope to be able to publish in a future issue a short critical article on Mr. Young's verse, which, apart from occasional shy appearances in the "Nation and Athenæum," is very little before the public.

Bibliography (Section Two of the L.A. Examinations), will in future, consist of two parts:—

(1) General Bibliography.

and either (a) Practical Bibliography and Book Selection.

or (b) Palæography and the Archive Sciences.

The Council Meeting held on September 12th was well attended, and members were pleased to have the President in the Chair. A motion forwarded from the Midland Division suggesting that the Honorary Fellowship be conferred upon Mr. H. M. Cashmore, City Librarian of Birmingham, was moved from the chair and seconded by the whole Council. The conferring of this distinction on Mr. Cashmore will give

great satisfaction, we are quite sure, to the whole of the Association, and particularly to the Midland Division. The active and prosperous state in which that Division now maintains itself, it is admitted freely, to a large extent is due to Mr. Cashmore's energy and goodwill, and the Council were delighted to feel that they had it in their power to give some concrete expression of their esteem and appreciation to their former colleague.

A Dance, similar to that held last year, will be arranged probably at Lever House, Blackfriars, for the first Wednesday in November, or for some other convenient date in that month.

The A.A.L. Series is at present being reported on by Mr. K. G. Hunt, with a view to adding new titles, revising those subjects which have become out of date, and reprinting those titles now out of print.

The Library Association is showing definite signs of the energy and virility with which its new policy is being pursued. The Conference at Blackpool is obviously going to be a great success from all points of view, and for the first time we believe for many years, members have been supplied with the agenda of the annual Business Meeting well in advance, and whether they are attending the Conference or not. The programme itself is very comprehensive and seems excellent both from a professional and a social aspect. Various minor improvements are foreshadowed in the September issue of the *Library Association Record*, which, in future, is to be issued cut ready for reading. The Book-list Marker which has been prepared has already been issued, but we have not heard of its success or otherwise. We should like to suggest that future lists would be more serviceable if they contained fewer titles. The disadvantages of recommending more than six popular books on a scientific subject are that smaller libraries cannot be expected to purchase a large number of books which they do not happen to stock but which happen to be recommended by the L.A. List; that since the lists are intended for the average general reader it is wiser to assume that he will only require one or two popular books on the same subject, for should he desire to read further he will probably specialise on one aspect. In any case a long list of books is always confusing to the untrained reader. We would suggest that a short list compiled by an authority would meet the needs of most librarians. It would also be an improvement if we could have the initials of the authors, otherwise the checking of the

list with a large card catalogue is an annoying task when one comes to "Browne's "Concerning the Habits of Insects" and similar books. The idea is an excellent one and we hope it will be developed until the Association is able to issue booklets similar to those recently prepared at Leeds.

We propose leaving over any discussion of the suggested new Constitution of the L.A. until the result of its reception at Blackpool is known. It is sufficient to say, at the moment, that generally speaking, in the form that the new rules and regulations are to be offered to the Annual Meeting, they are obviously the result of a sincere effort to weld the profession into one powerful and united body. Provision is made for those members earning small salaries, and the way is thus made clear for the augmenting of the ranks of the Association with hundreds of assistants, who before were definitely ruled out of membership by the plain and simple fact that they could not afford it. Whatever the assistant of to-day expects, it must be quite evident to everybody that an assistant earning £250 or less, cannot afford a large subscription. In any case, he is not in the frame of mind to part with guineas, whereas a sliding subscription from half-a-guinea upwards will obviously appeal to him.

Correction. The Pass List of the Library Association Examination (Section VI.—Library Routine), contained a misprint. For Barnes, Miss E. L. (Leamington) read Baines, Miss E. J.

"BEFORE AND AFTER";

**or, a contribution to the scanty literature on the Public
Libraries of South Africa.**

By PERCY FREER, B.A.

South African Public Library, Cape Town.

At a time when South Africa is the cynosure of the library world a short essay upon this subject may perhaps be found useful.

Not for twenty years has there appeared anything on the public library systems of South Africa, so that even a little recapitulation may not be out of place(1).

Arago (2) in 1823 uttered his scathing opinion of the Cape Town Public Library as he had found it in 1818, the year of its institution, and Robertson (3) still saw reasons for complaint in 1856. Since that time Sir John Hall (4) and a string of

other visitors, culminating with Stephen Black (5) have "put in a good word" for us.

I would refer anyone interested to the undermentioned publications (6-7) for some useful *statistics* relating to public libraries out here. The State Librarian, basing his claim upon statistics, states that during the past six years Pretoria has spent more money on books than any other South African library (8). In the "Municipal Year Book" you will find columns showing the different systems of issue; whether closed—or open—access; and the systems of classification in use, etc. They include Dewey, "Numerical," Perkins, and Subject schemes (9).

It is not to a librarian but to a retired judge, the Hon. Sir Perceval M. Laurence, that we are indebted for the main contribution to South African Library literature and progress. His first took the form of an address (10) delivered at the opening of the new Kimberley Public Library, an institution he has ever liberally supported; the second was an article (11) at once instructive and amusing, wherein he most delightfully pulls Greenwood's leg; and lastly his inaugural address (12) delivered at the first Conference of South African Librarians, held at Johannesburg in 1904. This is a valuable addition to the question now at issue; it deserves a wider publicity than it has hitherto been accorded. (It is not referred to in Cannon's "Bibliography," although the Proceedings of the Conference are). You may be surprised to find a layman possessing such an insight into those matters which we so jealously call ours, but then Sir Perceval, as Chairman of the Kimberley Public Library, had long been closely connected with library work and actually compiled this catalogue (10). "The exemption of the libraries of Cape Colony from taxation (13) was also gained by the action of Kimberley, at the instigation of the Hon. Mr. Justice Laurence" (14).

Sir Perceval Laurence (11), Dyer (14), J. R. Boose (15-16) and Mr. Evans Lewin (17) have all touched upon the subject of library legislation in South Africa. Nor do I intend to do more. You will doubtless have turned to Mr. C. R. Sanderson's recent book, "Library Law," there only to find the subject dismissed in the space of half a page. And no wonder! It consists of such a varied mass of Acts and Ordinances, ranging from a Cape of Good Hope Act, 20 of 1864 to a Transvaal Ordinance, 11 of 1926, that one could not possibly handle it adequately within the space of one brief article. (Besides that, it is hoped that more detailed information may soon be elsewhere available).

The situation presents numerous anomalies. The only *free* Library to my knowledge in South Africa (18), the Johannesburg Municipal Library, has an income of £20,000 per annum, while the biggest library, the South African Public Library, one belonging to the Subscription class and receiving the largest Government grant, has a total revenue not amounting to one-third of that figure. (It should be remembered that Subscription libraries are the rule out here; they are only *free* (!) for reading and reference purposes, not for borrowing. Even Johannesburg still demands a deposit of 5/- on each book borrowed.

In addition to Governmental there are also Provincial and Municipal grants. One Province (20) assists School Libraries (21) and "Rural" Distribution; another (22) makes a grant towards a Children's Library. Within one municipality (23) we find four libraries receiving municipal and three of them Government grants too. Nor are any of them affiliated to a parent institution. Branch libraries, in fact, are practically unknown (18).

The smaller libraries for the most part function under the £ for £ Regulations (24), i.e., the amount of the Provincial Grant equals the annual average amount raised in subscriptions, but not (usually) exceeding £100.

An extension of the Public Health Act (25) to recognise books as potential carriers of disease, is desirable in my opinion; the latent risks attendant upon circulating books from infected dwellings have yet to be controlled. The development of the *free* library will tend to increase the danger.

The South African Public Library, Cape Town, and the State Library, Pretoria, constitute between them the National Library of South Africa; they are specifically excluded from the operations of the 'Financial Relations Act' (19).

The difficulties under which the South African Public Library works, endeavouring to fulfil simultaneously the functions of a national-, municipal-, supplementary university- and circulating-library, were made the subject of a special report by the former Librarian, Mr. F. S. Lewis (37).

That is very briefly the state of affairs to-day, "*Before*." And now what of "*After*"? For we hope that the visit of Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Pitt will strengthen our faith and give impetus to many long cherished schemes for the future.

One of the inevitable results must be closer co-operation among all librarians and others interested in the libraries of South Africa. To this end an association and professional

journal are pre-requisites. Another, almost consequential one: a greater co-ordination in place of the present heterogeneous library system prevalent (a) within certain municipalities (26); (b) in the Cape Peninsula; (c) on the Rand; (d) in the Provinces, particularly in relation to the farmer, the schools and certain isolated institutions; (e) in the Union as a whole; (f) in Southern Rhodesia; and finally a further consideration and an attempt at a solution or alleviation of the acute "Coloured" and Native questions.

Here I propose to give a résumé of what has already been done, or at least mooted, under these respective heads (a and b). As far as the Cape Town and Peninsula libraries are concerned there seems to-day to exist the same degree of apathy as prevailed some few years ago when Sir Thomas Muir and Mr. A. C. G. Lloyd investigated the matter. (c) A step in the right direction took place in 1924 when Johannesburg became a Municipal *Free Library*; (d) Here I would indicate another obscure contribution by Dyer (27). An exceptional Provincial Grant is "made in the case of Germiston, which now (1928) receives £200 on account of its country distribution . . . and about £700 a year from the (Transvaal) Education Department for School Libraries . . ." (28). In the Cape, the Education Department administers its own excellent school libraries. The South African Public Library sends "books, printed, of a literary nature . . ." (29) at a cheaper rail-and-subscription rate to its country subscribers.

(e) The Librarian of the South African Public Library has compiled for the Research Grant Board of the Department of Mines and Industries a new and revised edition of "A List of the Serial Publications available for consultation in the libraries and scientific institutions of the Union of South Africa." (30). Last year the Trustees of this Library appointed a Committee (31) "to advise as to the best method whereby the S.A.P.L. could assist a project to form a complete bibliography of Africana," which would be tantamount to a revised and modernized 'Mendelssohn' 32. (f) "In an address delivered in February, 1924, the Librarian of the Bulawayo Public Library (33) outlined a scheme for development of library service, comprising the establishing of a State Library and Legislative Information Bureau, care of Archives, formation of teachers' reference Library, organisation of library system for rural schools and districts, including aid, advice and instruction for public libraries, unable to employ trained officials (34), and assistance in the formation of libraries where none exist" (35).

There are very good libraries at Lovedale, and in the Native College at Fort Hare. At Pietermaritzburg, too, there is a rapidly growing specialised library for the use of native teachers; accessions and partial revisions of the catalogue appear in a quarterly (36), published since 1919.

"So far back as January, 1890, on the proposition of the Hon. P. M. Laurence, Judge President of the High Court of Griqualand West, then its Chairman, the Kimberley Library Committee resolved "That . . . it is desirable that a S. A. Library Association should be formed as soon as practicable" (14). At the opening of the century Professor Stanley Kidd, of Grahamstown, put before the Colonial Secretary (38) a suggestion concerning the formation of a Library Association and the holding of a Congress (39). Sir Perceval addressed the First Conference of South African librarians at Johannesburg in 1904 (12). The following important passage constitutes item (22) of the *Report of the Council* of the "S.A.A.A.S." for that year.:

"Under the auspices of the Association the first conference of librarians and those interested in the libraries of South Africa was held on Tuesday, the 5th of April. Mr. Reunert presided over the conference, and Mr. Bertram L. Dyer gave particulars regarding all the South African libraries. Mr. Justice Laurence was unable to be present, but his inaugural address was read. *At the end of the proceedings it was unanimously agreed to ask the Council of the Association to arrange a special sub-section of Section D at all future annual meetings to deal with the question of libraries.*" (40).

At the next year's meeting Dyer contributed the paper already referred to (27). Then once more enthusiasm flagged. In 1918 Mr. Geo. Reyburn (1) and Mr. Stirling, of Germiston, made a renewed appeal which, in its turn met with insufficient response (41). I understand that this year conferences are again being arranged so that American, Scottish and South African Librarians may soon meet in solemn conclave. The Editor of the "Library Association Record," referring to the visit to South Africa of the two Commissioners appointed to investigate the Library problems of the Union wrote: "We hope that one result will be a closer relationship between South African Librarians and their colleagues in the home country, and that if an Association is formed, it will be formed in a definite relationship with the Library Association (42). It would be wise, and need not prevent our conferences from again being held under the auspices of the "S.A.A.A.S."

The question of starting a separate library journal was also discussed in 1904, but such an attempt was deprecated by a majority of those then present (43). As a medium of professional communication the annual Reports of the "S.A.A.A.S." instead have been suggested. To-day, one can scarcely regret the failure of such a scheme. My own preference is for a quarterly journal at first, sectionally devoted to (a) general papers; (b) S.A. library notes and queries (a series of historical articles dealing with the various libraries might usefully commenced (6a); (c) Home and Foreign *ditto*; (d) S.A. bibliography; with perhaps a further section (e) corresponding to the "Library Assistant."

There is so much to be accomplished under (d). Since the Book Registry Act, No. 4 of 1888 ceased to operate, we have no means of ascertaining with any hope of finality what is published within the Union. Through the medium just mentioned each "copyright" Provincial capital might list its publications so far as they were traceable (44). Thus should we not only render mutual service, but at the same time bring this material to the notice of the less favoured (?) libraries. We have no South African equivalent of the Australian, Canadian or English Catalogues; nothing, in fact, since "Mendelssohn," published eighteen years ago. Then, too, the limited province of (27) might now be usefully extended, and we could set about collating our material for the 'complete bibliography of Africana' already mentioned. We could list our *desiderata* and duplicates for exchange in emulation of the Bodleian and the London School of Economics. Sir Perceval Laurence suggested (12, p. 527) that the new South African Library Journal might be edited by our librarians in rotation, each taking a term of six months in office!

To revert to the Conference of 1904. Other papers besides Sir Perceval's were read: Mr. Cooper, then and now of Port Elizabeth, made out a strong case for the general adoption of "Dewey" throughout the libraries of South Africa (43), thus anticipating by many years the recommendation of the Public Libraries Committee (46). (Even more recently he has won over another unexpected convert (47). Personally I do not think "Dewey" adequate for so large a library as the S.A.P.L.; this is an obvious case for the Library of Congress scheme). A paper by Mr. E. Miller, then librarian of Bulawayo, followed. This was entitled "A Plea for a South African School of Librarianship," and dealt with the adequate training of library assistants (45). (There are no training facilities up to now, unless Mr. Niven's scheme (35) has taken

tangible form; mine has not). I have not seen either of these papers, neither do they appear in Cannon's "Bibliography." Dyer, however, acknowledges his debt to the second one (14, p. 25).

Perhaps Sir Perceval Laurence's happiest idea was that in the year when it was definitely decided to launch a South African Library Association, the (English) Library Association should also arrange to hold its annual meeting out here by way of a "send-off" (11, p. 16). The question of distance as well as the incidental ones of time and expense arise as deterrents to any scheme, but they are ever present in South Africa. For that reason even our local meetings could only be held at long intervals. This merely serves to emphasise the need for a journal as a means of more frequent communication. Moreover, it would tend to foster a better co-operative action and sympathetic spirit in our daily work. So visionary would we become that when, we will say, a Transvaal librarian went home on leave, he could upon his return so depict the atmosphere of Mr. Newcombe's "Club" (48) and our colleagues there gathered together, that we, too, had almost been present! Therefore, to this end, I for one extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Pitt.

REFERENCES.

(I have intentionally been liberal with my references in this article, hoping thereby to increase its usefulness).

1. In 1919 Mr. Geo. Reyburn, M.L.A. (Member of the Legislative Assembly), at that time Librarian, Durban, wrote an article: "Technical and commercial library movement in S.A." *L.A.R.* xxi., 159.
2. Arago (J. E. V.) *Narrative of a voyage round the world*; p. 19.
3. Robertson (John) of *Cowan Tent. Six years on the road.* (Cape Town); pp. 69-77.
4. *Life and letters*, by S. M. Mitra. (Longmans). 1911; p. 107.
5. In an article contributed to *The Cape Argus*, 23rd December, 1927.
6. *Official Year Book of the Union of South Africa.* No. 8-1925. Pretoria. 1927; pp. 199-200 and 780.
- 6a. —*id.* Earlier issues, Nos. 1-6 each contain the historical sketch of the four "copyright" libraries: S.A.P.L.; Pretoria; (Pieter)maritzburg and Bloemfontein, No. 6, 1923. *ib.* 1924; pp. 296-7. For S.A.P.L. See also *Annals*, 1818-1918, appended to *Annual Report*, 1917; for Pretoria also (8); for Port Elizabeth, *Catalogue*, 2 vols.

- 1906; vol. 1; pp. xix-xxix: (*History of the P.E.P.L.*, by Percy Evans Lewin, now Librarian of the Royal Colonial Institute); and for others see Dyer (14), and Laurence (11).
7. *Official South African Municipal Year Book*, 1927-28. Statistics revised by Franklin Rooke, A.M.L.A. Librarian, Durban; pp. 487-94.
 8. Heaton (Ronald W.) Origin and progress of the State Library: an address . . . *The Pretoria News*, Jan. 27, 1927; p. 9.
 9. I fear this does not imply the application of Brown's "Subject Classification," but rather of an arbitrary grouping by class.
 10. *Second Supplementary Catalogue of the K.P.L.* (. . . 1885-87) together with an address . . . July 23, 1887.
 11. *The Library*, ix.; pp. 3-16, 1897: "Public libraries in S.A." [10 and 11 are reprinted in: 'Collectanea: essays, addresses and reviews.' (Macmillan). 1899; p. 336-42 and 256-70 respectively].
 12. *Report of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science*, Johannesburg Meeting, 1904; pp. 526-37.
 13. Act No. 19 of 1892.
 14. Dyer (Bertram L.) *Librarian of Kimberley*. (The Public Library Systems of Great Britain, America and South Africa. Kimberley, 1903; p. 16 note. (The text of this excellent pamphlet, but minus the invaluable Appendices, will also be found in the *Report S.A.A.A.S.* Cape Town Meeting, 1903, pp. 415-28).
 15. *The Library*, viii.; pp. 18-9: 'Registers of Colonial publications.' 1896.
 16. *The Library*, (N.S.) I.; pp. 183-5: 'Libraries of Greater Britain.' 1900.
 17. 'L.A.' ? vol.: 'The Empire and the Public Library.' 1909.
 18. (Excluding "Kenilworth, attached to Kimberley; this is maintained by the liberality of the De Beers Company for its employees. Dyer, p. 19).
 19. No. 10 of 1913; Second Schedule, 4.
 20. Transvaal.
 21. The Orange Free State allowed £1,000 in its Estimates, 1927-28 for "Grants-in-aid of School libraries, school prizes, and approved Education Exhibitions." (P.C.-11a.-1927).
 22. Natal.
 23. Cape Town.

24. Memorandum originally issued 31st August, 1874.
25. No. 36 of 1919, sect. 30.
26. e.g. Cape Town.
27. *Report S.A.A.A.S.*, 1905-6; pp. 523-8. "Libraries for scantily populated districts."
28. From information kindly supplied by the Librarian, Mr. Stirling.
29. South African Railways and harbours. *Official Railway Tariff Book*, No. 14 of 1928, p. 80. Clause 160. Articles transported at half parcels rates : (b).
30. Cape Town, 1927.
31. Recommendations forwarded to the Research Grant Board, Pretoria.
32. Mendelssohn (Sidney). *Mendelssohn's South African Bibliography*; 2 vols. (Kegan Paul). 1910.
33. Mr. D. Niven, F.L.A.
34. Dyer (1) p. 22 says : "The apparent lack of that native product, trained librarians in South Africa has led to the appointment of those who have gained some experience in the Libraries of the Home Country."
35. *Official Year Book of the Colony of Southern Rhodesia*. No. 1—1924; p. 85.
36. *Native Teachers' Journal*.
37. Issued February, 1902 as appendix to the *Annual Report of the S.A.P.L.*, 1901.
38. The Hon. Sir P. H. Faure, K.C.M.G.
39. *Cape Times*, 3rd April, 1903. *Our Public Libraries*, a long article, in which the Professor advocated the following reforms :
 - (1) A new system of management.
 - (2) Free libraries and reading-rooms in all large centres.
 - (3) Greater accessibility of books.
 - (4) An improvement in the status of librarians.
 - (5) Inspection of libraries by a Government expert.
 - (6) A library association with occasional congresses.
40. *Report*, p. 546.
41. See also an article by the Librarian of Parliament, Mr. Paul Ribbink, another keen advocate : *S.A. Jnl. of Industries* : viii. 565-71, 1925.
42. *L.A.R.* (N.S.) vi., p. 54, 1928.
43. *L.J.* xxix. : 368-9, 1904.
44. We might experiment with the galley slip form, so that the entries could then be cut up for mounting on standard 5 by 3 in. cards.

45. *L.J.* xxix. : 369, 1904.
46. Report on Public Libraries; para. 581 (i.), 1927.
47. *Cape Argus*, 9th July, 1928: *Waiting for Books* . . .
48. *Inter-communication between special libraries*; p. 8, 1926.
(A S L I B, 3rd Conference, Oxford).

BARRIE'S MINISTERS.

By F. T. B. MASON

(Westminster Public Libraries).

A dour and serious lot are the ministers of Barrie's creation. Though there is a spark of humour in their sayings at times, it is of an unconscious nature. In the pages of Barrie's novels we soon come across the Auld Lichts, men and women who were devout in their religion and were given a fine example by their minister, Mr. Dishart. When he was preaching he was either a teetotum or a windmill. He was a man who took the Bible literally and refused to give the sacrament to some who had gathered wild flowers on the Lord's Day. Women were excluded who had so far forgotten themselves as to cook dinners on the Sabbath.

Other denominations existed in Thrums, including the English Church. Now, there was nothing good they could say of this church. I forgot—there was just one good thing in its favour, and that was that once its steeple had fallen in.

Yes, the Auld Lichts were a serious lot, and once refused to have a pastor who read his sermons, "They said it was as though he was claiming heaven on false pretences."

In "When a Man's Single" we are told that one of the characters, Auld Rob, had an epoch-making debate with the minister on justification by faith. Who got the best of the argument we are not told, but Barrie tells us that Rob, towards the end of the day getting somewhat passionate, said to the minister, "I tell you flat, Mester Byars, if I dinna ging to Heaven in my ain way I dinna ging ava."

Barrie's greatest creation in men of the cloth is "The Little Minister," whose name was Gavin Dishart. When he was young his mother said "Gavin's genius showed itself while he was still a child. He was born with a brow whose nobility impressed her from the first. It was a minister's brow . . . and she decided, when his age was still by months, that the ministry had need of him." In those days one child, even if he were the only one, was earmarked for the ministry. Gavin was a keen Auld Licht, for at six years of age he hit

another boy for belonging to the Established Church. He was also observant, for when his mother took him to church he noticed that the first thing a minister did on ascending the pulpit was to cover his face with his hands. Secondly, "to move the big Bible slightly, to show that the kirk officer, not having had a university education, could not be expected to know the very spot on which it ought to lie."

There was one black year in Gavin's life and that was when he told his mother "he would rather be good at the high jump than the author of 'Pilgrim's Progress.'" That year passed and young Gavin came to his right mind. Time rolled on, and when Gavin was twenty he became the minister of the Auld Lich Church of Thrums at £80 a year. He was now able to realise the ambition of his life in letting his mother have an egg for her breakfast every morning. It is a wonder that Gavin was chosen, for his congregation was extremely critical. On one occasion they refused a minister because he gave out the line of the 119th Psalm for singing and said "and so on to the end." Another minister looked like a genius, but the doctor was against him for he said, "my experience is that there's no folk sic idiots as them that looks like geniuses."

The Little Minister was a small man, but his manner was overawing and his sermonising powerful. He reached the grand climax when he preached against women. Mr. Dishart loved his congregation, and always had his church in his mind. When he is drowning (the author saves him in the end) he shouts from the nearly submerged island to his flock on the banks. "Yes," he cried, "I owe five shillings to Hendry Munn for mending my boots, and a smaller sum to Baxter, the mason. . . . The sacrament cups are in the vestry press, of which you will find the key beneath the clock in the parlour. The tokens are in the top-most drawer in my bedroom. The weekly prayer meeting will be held as usual on Thursday, at eight o'clock, and the elders will officiate."

Like most men, especially those who adopt a superior air to the fair sex, he succumbed to the bewitching and teasing Babbie. Some irresistible force compelled him to seek her and made him willing, if necessary, to sacrifice his ministry, his mother, everything in the world for her. Still, the tale is too long of Gavin and Babbie. Suffice to say that they were married, and eventually a little maid came to spend her life with them.

Who knows but that in after years she may have followed her mother's excellent example and married a minister.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AND EXAMINATIONS, 1928.

Correspondence Course Fees. The fees for each Course for those actually engaged in library work have been reduced from 35/- to 25/-.

Courses are held in the following subjects :—

Section 1.—English Literary History (Special Period, *either* (1) Wordsworth and his circle : with special study of "The Prelude," or (2) 1830-1860).

(NOTE.—From May, 1930, the Special Period set will be Dr. Johnson and his circle).

Conductor : Miss M. Lane, M.A. (London).

Section 2.—Elementary Bibliography and *either* Book Selection or Palæography and the Archive Sciences.

Conductors : Messrs. W. R. B. Prideaux, B.A., F.L.A., Librarian, The Reform Club, and J. E. Walker, F.L.A., Librarian, Fulham Public Library.

(NOTE.—A Course in Palæography and the Archive Sciences will be arranged if a sufficient number of students offers).

Section 3.—Classification.

Conductor : Mr. H. A. Sharp, F.L.A., Deputy Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.

Section 4.—Cataloguing.

Conductor : Mr. R. Bain, Chief Cataloguer, Glasgow Public Libraries.

Section 5.—Library Organisation.

Conductor : Mr. C. R. Sanderson, B.Sc., Librarian, The National Liberal Club.

Section 6.—Library Routine.

Conductor : Mr. James Ross, F.L.A., Deputy City Librarian, Bristol Public Libraries.

Applications on the official form must be sent to the Secretary of the Library Association, 26-27, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, before 15th October, 1928.

December Examinations.

All entries for the Examinations must be made upon the special form and sent to the office of the Library Association, before 31st October, 1928, after which date no applications will be entertained.

POEMS FROM A PRIVATE ANTHOLOGY.

(III.)

HYMN.

O Name unknown, O Word eternally unspoken,
 Revered and feared and loved and more than all adored,
 From Whom the light of day as daily bread is broken,
 Dawn and set of sun as milk and wine are poured :
 Thou art the Lord of life, the Life and the Life-giver,
 Breath of all living things that living live in Thee,
 Bright air and flowery earth, field and flashing river,
 Round sun and crumbling moon and time-observing sea.
 Giver of all gifts, we offer thee thanksgiving,
 Across their glorious dust marking Thy finger-trace ;
 But most of all for man, great miracle of living,
 Whose frailer dust upholds a mirror to Thy face.

A. J. YOUNG.

OUR LIBRARY.

Reference Library Methods. By John Warner. With a Foreword by L. Stanley Jast. (Grafton & Co., pp. 288, 8vo., Cloth, 12/6 net).

In this book Mr. Warner has given us the manual of reference library practice, so noticeably lacking from the professional library of English Librarians. Although the work is very uneven in the treatment of its various sections, and suffers by the inclusion of much matter already easily available, it is certain to be the standard work on English reference library practice for some years. Mr. Warner's aim seems to have been to bring together the scattered material on the subject, and as a consequence he skims lightly over many difficulties and does little to help solve some of the most difficult problems confronting those who have the care of even moderately-sized reference libraries.

The statement in the introductory chapter that the book assumes a knowledge of modern reference library routine, largely disarms criticism of individual parts of the book. Much of the chapter on staff could have been omitted without serious loss to the value of the book, and it is curious that Mr. Warner has little to say about the need for specially training assistants for the reference library, and pays no attention to the absurd system, so common in English libraries, of regarding assistants as interchangeable between the reference depart-

ment and the lending and other departments. If Mr. Warner makes one fact more clear than any other, it is that nearly all development in reference library work is dependent on increased trained staffs. The chapter on planning, which might well have been expanded, has an excellent description of the stack system, which in view of the scarceness of suitable sites for extension, is certain to be the storage method of the future.

Under future methods of storage many foot-sore juniors will be delighted to read the prophecy of M. Morel, of the Bibliothèque Nationale: "... a reader desiring to consult any special subject would merely have to press the button allocated to that subject and instantly ... a lift would rise to the correct position, the desired bookcase would glide on to the lift only to glide off to the reader's station immediately the lift reached the ground."

The chapter on Local Collections is the best piece of work in the book, and one of the best we have read on that perplexing subject.

During the last few years the work of the reference library has been overshadowed by the great importance attached to Lending Libraries, and the reckless race after "issues." We hope that Mr. Warner's book will reawaken interest in reference library work, for although judged by the misleading standard of issues the work of the department is small, the real work of reference libraries is undoubtedly the superior force for proving to the community the true value of libraries and books generally.

V. W.

Catalogue of Books in Fife County Library. 5½ by 8½ ins. pp. 462; boards.

This is probably the most extensive piece of printed cataloguing yet produced by the county libraries. It is well printed and pleasantly covered in plain, blue boards, with gilt lettering on the spine. The Librarian, Miss Helen Gray, and her Assistant, Miss V. Menzies, have done their work very well, and have wisely, we think, chosen the dictionary form of cataloguing. So far as we can judge, all of the usual cataloguing slips have been carefully avoided and the whole production is singularly free from errors. We would plead for the translators to be given, however, in the cases of Tolstoy, and other foreign writers. We hesitate to criticise the book selection, since the County Library labours under many difficulties; what is here recorded, however, is good; and if we name Turgenev, Plutarch, Gogol, Dostoevsky, D. H. Lawrence, Clifford Bax, Thomas Bewick, Plato, Aristophanes, Thucydides, Herodotus, and Havellock Ellis, as unrepresented or misrepresented authors, it is only because we have have no space for further names, and because we think the presence of entries for the complete works of E. V. Lucas, Stephen Leacock, Gertrude Page, and others of that nature give us the right to. Also we cannot imagine a library without these authors.

F. S. S.

The Personal Library, by Haslehurst Greaves. Buckram; pp. 94; 7½ by 4½ ins.; Grafton & Co. 3/6 net.

A useful little book for the young book-collector, giving methods of raising funds for buying books, the arguments in favour of a card index, the meaning of the terms used by booksellers and bibliographers, and a list of books "to start with." Mr. Greaves must have found it a pleasant book to write, for who would not write about their hobby if they were asked to; and given the right reader, the book will be found pleasant and useful enough to justify itself.

First Editions of To-day and How to Tell Them. By H. S. Boutell. Cloth; pp. 62; 5 by 7½ ins.; Elkin, Matthews and Marrot; 3/- net.

We must confess to some disappointment with this little book, for its thrilling title called up visions of a guide book about "modern firsts," telling us all of those esoteric little points which are so mysterious and irritating. You think you have picked up a valuable D. H. Lawrence or Galsworthy for a shilling or two, but when you go to pocket your wealth you find an unsympathetic bookseller who points out to you that your edition isn't a true first since the letter "N" in an advertisement at the end is not the wrong way up. We fully expected Mr. Boutell's little book to tell us these things, and so were disappointed to find that all he has done is to collect and arrange alphabetically under publishers' names the various methods used for denoting "a first." Undeniably useful, however, it is to know that the usual practice of Messrs. J. M. Dent and Sons "is to print a date on the title-page of a first edition; if a book is reprinted we put a new date on the title-page and print on the reverse 'First published so and so, reprinted so and so.' Thus you will be able to identify first editions by the absence of any such note on the reverse of the title-page." This is a characteristic entry. We suggest the book might well have been issued in paper covers at an even cheaper price, but as it is, it should have a ready sale among book-collectors and booksellers.

Reading with a Purpose Series—Pivotal Figures of Science, by A. E. Bostwick; Adventures in Flower Gardening, and S. B. Mitchell; French Literature, by Irving Babbitt. Chicago: A. L. A.

All of these booklets are as good as any that have preceded them in this series, and one, Professor Babbitt's, is very good indeed. The Publishing Committee of the A. L. A. are to be congratulated on securing the services of so distinguished a critic. Mr. Bostwick is more famous as a librarian than a scientist, but his booklet is clearly written and should be of use to readers interested in its subject. Professor Babbitt's essay is a wonderfully clever piece of condensation and concentration—a kind of literary marmite, in fact, if the image is allowable.

F. S. S.

Bibliography: Enumerative and Historical. By Henry Bartlett van Hoesen and Frank Keller Walter. Scribner. (pp. viii. + 519. Illus., facs. Crown 8vo. 27/6 net).

Bibliography may be viewed from two aspects—that of the research student requiring a guide to the mass of printed books and that of the bibliographer himself. It will be admitted, I think, that these two viewpoints require different treatment. The book under review is written for the first class of reader, and consequently his point of view has been borne in mind by the present reviewer. The authors have done two things—they have covered the whole field of "enumerative," *id est* subject bibliography, and they have sketched the history of writing, printing

and other matters connected with the corpus of a book. The first part has my most sincere admiration. It is a bibliography of bibliographies, arranged under subjects, in a condensed and portable form with useful and enlightening comments. The authors deal mainly with modern bibliography, particularly where the work is a recurrent publication. I need not add that their list represents all nations and most subjects. I have not seen any compilation which can rival this as a resumé of modern bibliographical equipment, and one can see how the development of bibliographical studies is now practically universal. An appendix of some sixteen hundred bibliographies and authorities is the ballast of a very seaworthy craft. It is, of course, selective, but (the authors may not agree with me) I think no lists of their class complete without Joseph Moss's "Manual of Classical Bibliography," Augustus de Morgan's "Arithmetical books," and Sotheran's "Bibliotheca chemica-mathematica." Further, the publications of the Bibliographical Society are listed under the Society's name where they would be of greater use under their respective subjects.

The second half of the book is purely historical. It is a (comparatively) brief sketch of the art of the book from manuscripts and scribes onward, with some highly interesting and well-chosen examples of scripts and type faces arranged for comparative study. So far, so good. Yet, I am very much concerned with the use of this to an ordinary research student. The study of purely historical bibliography does not concern him at all except in certain implications of no great importance. Hand-writings he regards solely as a palæographer, and the short sketch of historical development in this book would be of little use to him. The same applies to printing. Researches into the art of the printer are likely to be more fruitful if conducted on the lines laid down in Dr. McKerrow's recent book, and even this refers only to the student of literature. A student of science would never require to know anything concerning historical bibliography, and I cannot see that his equipment would be in any way improved if he attempted to master the subject. There is, in fact, in this book which is not primarily intended for the librarian, too much library science. Indirectly, however, any librarian or bibliographer will find it extremely interesting and useful. It will become an important work of reference that no library can afford to be without. The style is difficult to read, and every opinion voiced by the authors is backed by an authority. Reading through the book is one long steeplechase over the hurdles of Mudge, Pollard, Peddie, and other authorities. The first chapters are almost entirely a tissue of cuttings. This does not affect the *practical* value of the work or the authors' enlightened pursuit after new material. I strongly recommend it to all students working for professional qualifications, and although (from a librarian's point of view) we are still waiting for the ideal book on bibliography this is an important addition to the subject which should receive a good welcome on this side of the Atlantic.

J. G. O'LEARY.

THE TENNIS SECTION.

There were many heart-breakings on August 29th at mid-day when rain started, but despite a storm sufficiently alarming to have put off Wimbledon players, the girls' A.A.L. tennis party at Richmond took place, and once the players were on the courts, the sun naturally appeared.

Unfortunately, less people than were expected came. Holidays, work and tennis shyness stopped a great many. One girl dropped out at the last moment, and in order to make up an even number, a man had to be called on to take her place, though all thought it very derogatory to their sex.

Names of partners were picked at random out of a hat, and doubles were played, each couple playing every other. After this there was a singles tournament, each person playing her partner, the winners playing each other, and so on. By the time this was over and all the lost balls had been retrieved from other courts and the golf links, it was time to stop, after a very enjoyable three hours' tennis.

Those people who did come were real tennis enthusiasts, and the games on the whole, were good and fast. Next year it is to be hoped that girls will clamour to come and play, and instead of having to resort to a mere male for assistance there will be so little room that the announcement of the tennis match in the "Assistant" will say, "NO MEN ALLOWED."

P. A.

SHORT NOTICES.

Bristol. Syllabus of Half-hour Talks to Children; tenth series, 1928-29.

British Library of Political and Economic Science: Bulletin, September, 1928.

The special bibliography which is a useful feature of this bulletin is in this issue devoted to "International Law and Relations."

Coventry Public Libraries. Handbook; and, Readers' Bulletin, Sept., Oct., 1928.

The handbook constitutes a record of sixty years' of library service in the City of Coventry. It is illustrated with a plan of the Central Library and many half-tone plates of Branches, etc. Stock: 110,931; Issues for Home Reading (1927-8): 575,794; Tickets: 37,797. The bulletin is, as usual, notable for its excellent cataloguing.

Eccles: Librarian's Report, 1927-8.

Stock: 18,509; Issues: 146,432; Tickets: 4,809.

Fife Education Authority—County Library Scheme: Sixth Annual Report.

See review of the Catalogue under "Our Library" section.

Leeds: Public Libraries, Art Gallery and Museum: Annual Report, 1927-8.

Issues: 2,101,226; Tickets: 66,493; Book Grant: £3,670; Number of Staff: 114; Total Income: £33,957.

Portsmouth: Public Libraries and Museum: 44th Annual Report.

Stock: 91,693; Issues: 714,473; Tickets: 29,591.

St. Marylebone: Programme of Lectures, and Programme of Talks to Children, 1928-29.

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"I am not satisfied that a membership of just over 1,000 represents anything like the number of assistants who should be with us."—*The President, June 13th, at Birmingham.*

Membership Forms obtainable in quantities from the Hon. Secretary, Bancroft Road Library, E.1.

Twickenham: Public Library: Thirty-fourth Annual Report.
Stock: 21,137; Issues: 134,141; Tickets: 5,061.

Boston (U.S.A.) Seventy-sixth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library, pp. 81.

Estimated Expenditure for 1928: \$1,241,900; Total Expenditure on Books: \$152,414; Total Stock: 1,418,489; Issues for Home Reading: 3,705,657.

Boston (U.S.A.) More Books: Bulletin, July, 1928; and, Costume: a selected list of Books in the Library.

The list of books on costume extends to 48 pages and is a very valuable publication, giving, as it does, the place and year of publication of every item. The main article in the bulletin is devoted to a study of Albrecht Dürer.

The Canadian Catalogue of Books published in Canada, with imprint of 1927. Compiled by the Public Library, Toronto.

St. Louis Public Library: More Books for Children: monthly bulletin; and, The Annual Report, 1927-8.

Stock: 749,313; Issues for Home Reading: 3,305,462; Staff: 370 (113 men, 257 women). The report extends to 128 pages and contains many

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

APPOINTMENT of LIBRARIAN

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION invites applications for the position of whole-time Librarian at a commencing salary of £400 rising by annual increments of £25 to £600 per annum, subject to superannuation deductions.

Applications endorsed "Librarian," stating age, qualifications and experience, accompanied by copies of recent testimonials, must be sent to Medical Secretary, British Medical Association, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, not later than October 20th.

illustrations of electric book-lifts, a fleet of inter-branch motor vans, the boiler room, the bindery, the electric floor polisher, travelling scaffold for cleaning walls, the vacuum book cleaner, the photostat, and electric perforating book stamp. The special 25-page report by the Librarian, Mr. A. E. Bostwick, on the machinery in use in the libraries is, so far as we know, unique, and is very interesting and valuable. We particularly like the electric annunciator and the "recently-invented machine for charging books to borrowers."

Library Journal. August-September, 1928.

The F. D. Faxon Coy. Bulletin of Bibliography, May-August, 1928.

The Library Review, Autumn, 1928. (Published at the Editorial offices, Atlas Works, Coatbridge, Scotland, by Robert D. Macleod.

Contents: The Pen and the Sword, by George Blake; Frank Pacy, by W. C. B. Sayers; The British Museum Library, by A. Esdaile; American Book Clubs, by Frederic Melcher; Prison Libraries, by Muriel Kent, etc. The Editor announces that, in 1929, the annual subscription will be increased to 8/-. This was only to be expected since the magazine is now several times larger than was at first anticipated. It has always been the most readable of all the commercial library journals, both English and American.

NEW MEMBERS.

Associate: D. Andrews (West Ham), Iris May Fowler (Camberwell), L. Heather (Richmond), A. A. G. Jackson (Tooting), Beatrice E. Simpson (Ilford).

Members: Phyllis Mary Barrat (Derby County), Ernest Arnold Batty (Greenwich), M. Davies (Denbigh County), Mary Fergusson (Bath), Helja Jacobson (Malmo, Sweden), Joan Lord (Kingston), William Myson (Wimbledon), Austin E. S. Roberts (Bristol University), Henry Joseph Wilcox (Shoreditch), Vera E. Bowlen (Hounslow).

South-East Division.—Associate: Charles Noel Beattie.

Midland Division.—Associates: D. L. Pitt and Miss Wood (Birmingham).
ingham.

Member: Harry Grindle (Birmingham).

APPOINTMENTS.

**BEACH, LESLIE H.*, of the Portsmouth Public Library, to be Borough Librarian of Gosport. Two L.A. Certificates. Salary: £175—£250 per annum.

**CALLANDER, T. E.*, Assistant at Chiswick Library, to be Senior Assistant, Wood Green Library. London University Matriculation and Two L.A. Certificates. Basic Salary: £80 + £10—£120 per annum, plus Bonus. Commencing rate, £144.

**ALEXANDER, Miss A., M.L.A.*, Senior Assistant, to be Chief Assistant, Norwich Public Libraries. Six L.A. Certificates.

**SMITH, Miss L.*, Assistant, to be Senior Assistant, Norwich Public Libraries. Six L.A. Certificates.

**WILSON, Miss W. C.*, Assistant, Sheffield Public Libraries, to be Assistant, Norwich Public Libraries. Three L.A. Certificates.

*Member of the A.A.L.

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All correspondence relating to the journal should be addressed to the Editor; that concerning subscriptions, etc., to the Treasurer; new members should write to the Secretary. Those wishing for information concerning Correspondence Classes should write to Miss E. M. Exley, St. Marylebone Public Library, W.